MONTEREY NEWS

December 2014
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The Town

By Dave Irland

Notes on Select Board meetings from October 20 through November 17

Highway Department

Road salt—how much is enough, when do you apply it, and when do you refrain? Director of Operations Shawn Tryon and Select Board member Kenn Basler recently attended a day-long educational program on salt-use strategies in Pittsfield led by Mike Smith, the head of the Department of Public Works in Heath, MA, and suggested having Mr. Smith down to Monterey for a paid speaking engagement. (This meeting, for the Board and the highway department, has been scheduled for December 9.)

Mr. Basler said the program was "eye opening," going deep into the minutiae of salting—temperature gradients, amounts, sanding, etc. Given that this is a controversial issue in Monterey—some residents claiming over-salting in the past, which can adversely affect well water and road run-off water quality—the suggestion was well received.

Roger Tryon suggested a few home-brewed experiments with salt-and-sand mixes, which Select Board Chair Wayne Burkhart welcomed, at least in spirit. "Good things come from experiments," said Mr. Tryon.

Shawn Tryon also mentioned Monterey's new plow blade that supposedly conforms to the road, which should improve plowing results this winter.

Managing Expenses

Shawn Tryon, among others, sees an opportunity to cut town operational costs via the program of equipment sharing already in place throughout other small towns. For example, a mower for trimming road shoulders was being considered for group purchase by the towns of Sheffield, Egremont, New Marlborough, and Monterey, with shared maintenance and repair costs. The machine has a price tag of $140,000.

This led to a broader discussion of money saving. One of the Board members had toured the Sheffield transfer station, and thought it was a good setup and a model for Monterey. Select Board member Scott Jenssen pointed out the discovery of the buried old town hall, which caused added expense to the basketball court excavations behind the current town hall—an example, he said, of bad planning. An ongoing problem is that many of the bids for work to be done are aging out, and were gathered by former Director of Operations Maynard Forbes, who is no longer working for the town. All this, Kenn Basler said, pointed to a lack of oversight to these processes.

At a later meeting, on the same topic of town thrift, a Board member brought up the idea of acquiring military surplus trucks as a very large discount. New Marlborough has procured three new (or almost new) military spec trucks for about $9,000.

Transfer Station Improvement

An uncontroversial line-item was introduced and passed into the budget in which Beth Parks would be paid $200 per month for five months to get the transfer station's swap shack squared away, a job she's been doing so far on a voluntary basis.

Also regarding the transfer station, a resident suggested putting a "Big-Hearted Book" dumpster on-site to prevent books from being thrown out. The organization

Wendy Jensen

Del Martin

6th Annual Monterey Makers Studio Tour
Saturday, December 6, 10 am to 4 pm

See page 6 for Tour information

Nicole Campanale

Michael Banner

is based in Sharon, MA, and redistributes unwanted books to deserving recipients. The Board was receptive to the plan.

Police Matters

Police Chief Backhaus came before the board to introduce a new category of officer, Special Police Officer, to accommodate the mandatory retirement age, which will soon affect one of the current part time officers, Rudy Gero. This would enable Mr. Gero to continue working, albeit in a slightly altered capacity, restricted to traffic details. Mr. Gero brought the rotation of the details into question, since he felt that from his new position at the bottom of the preference list, he would be at a disadvantage. Scott Jenssen agreed with Mr. Gero that the rotation structure was a little too rigid, and that, in Mr. Burkhart's words, a "round-robin" arrangement might be fairer. At the conclusion of the discussion, at which point Chief Backhaus agreed to take the suggestion of a more equitable rotation under consideration, a motion was passed to extend Rudy Gero's appointment as Special Officer (officially "Part Time / Reserve Intermittent Police Officer") through November 30, 2014.

Police Chief Backhaus also introduced the two newest part-time members of the force, Jack Eliot, currently working part-time as an officer in Hillsdale, NY, with four years experience at Hillcrest Educational Center, and Gordon Sills, a former E.M.T. currently living in Housatonic.

Kenn Basler emphasized that for both new hires this meeting with the Board was strictly *pro forma*, given his trust in the Police Chief. He emphasized the importance of their interactions with the town folk of Monterey, the relationship of "cop to community," and that often in their summer rotations they were going to be encountering people from New York City and Boston with "different attitudes." He boiled it down as, "compassion *plus* humility."

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A motion to give both candidates six months probationary status, plus field training, was passed.

Dog Park

Of the thirty-two responses to the dog park questionnaire in the Monterey News, Kenn Basler counted nineteen in favor with thirteen against. After discussion, the old stump burn site was greeted with enthusiasm. Mr. Burkhart said, "We have heard the survey results, and will now look at sites."

Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG)

A group of residents including Dr. Michael Germaine, Ken Wagner PhD, and Pat Solomon presented a five-year plan to help Lake Garfield stave off the growth of invasive milfoil. Mike Germaine presented plan details, with Mr. Wagner (specialist in Lake Aquatic Ecology) chiming in with data points.

FLG has about one hundred members. They have secured funds to offset at least part of the costs of several key approaches to stifling the milfoil invasion, and are exploring matching state grants as well as future Monterey town contributions. The most effective milfoil deterrent is said to be diver-assisted suction harvesting, where the milfoil is sucked up by the roots and placed in bags to prevent the method by which milfoil replicates itself, the fragmentation of its leaves. This process, according to Mr. Wagner, costs about $10,000 per acre, and while the Lake Garfield milfoil infestation is about three acres in size, not all of it would have to be treated. Despite problems, the lake is one of the healthiest in the state, with clear water and good plankton counts, partially due to the yearly draw down. However, the draw down does not fully eliminate milfoil in the deeper spots, thus calling for the added efforts.

After the initial few years of suction harvesting, a maintenance program would continue in the form of machine harvesting along with diver harvesting at a cost of about $10,000 per annum. Five years of maintenance harvesting would effectively squelch the growth of milfoil since it establishes dominance by growing faster than other plants, which, given a yearly milfoil harvesting, would have a chance to claim their space on the lake floor.

Kenn Basler wondered if all of these were proven methods and was assured they were.

The discussion moved on to the inevitable zebra mussels, or lack thereof (so far). Contrary to earlier reports, the lake is in fact alkaline enough to support zebra mussels, which means that it is under threat of invasion by that species as well. To date there is no program in place to either inspect or wash boats launched into the lake, though a new law levies a $300 fine

on anyone found moving an invasive species from one lake to another. A Cheshire resident in attendance described the kiosk his town is working on to control users, which opens with a swipe of an electronic identification card.

The biggest problem lake maintenance faces is, of course, funding, with the state "ending at Worcester," according to Kenn Basler, who mentioned that the state used to grant $10,000 per year for lakes, but that fund is currently empty. Certainly Monterey (and neighboring towns) feel a sense of neglect from Boston, and to date all efforts to monitor and maintain bodies of water have fallen to the towns. Wayne Burkhart wondered how the town could "jump start Pignatelli." Scott Jenssen warned against asking lake abutters for more than their share of lake support money, since that would create a "my lake" syndrome. With all due irony, a Board member suggested closing the ramp off from public access which might make the point at the state level that in the absence of financial support, small towns are beginning to make their own decisions regarding what Massachusetts certainly considers a state resource.

Septic systems surrounding the lake were also discussed as contributors of phosphorous, which is capable of escaping from some of the older systems. The idea of cutting homeowners a tax break for proven septic maintenance was floated, among other creative incentives to clean up the septic situation.

Steve Weisz

Monterey's veterans gathered on November 11 at 11 a.m. for a service in honor of them and all veterans at the monument for the First World War in front of the library. George Emmons spoke about WWI as this year is the 100th anniversary of the start of the war—a grim anniversary but important to remember.

Pilot grants related to the state's Clean Water Act were also discussed in a second meeting of the FLG. The group would have to be qualified as "Capable Determined Local Partners," which they think to be an accurate description of their involvement.

Unsafe House Rentals

An issue forming in Monterey is the renting of houses to relatively large groups of people (beyond what Building Inspector Don Torrico said fell under the "single family" designation). This came to light at about 2 a.m. one recent morning when an alarm company alerted Fire Chief Shawn Tryon and Mr. Torrico to a carbon monoxide scare at one such rental property. Approximately six adults and two children were occupying the house, and the CO level upstairs was dangerously high due to a heating apparatus malfunction on the ground floor. No one was hurt, but the family was understandably reluctant to vacate at 2 a.m. A proposal was met with favor that "informational, not stern" letters from Mr. Torrico himself notify similar rental property owners so that they understand their obligations to provide CO and smoke detectors to any rental property.

Beaver Trapping

A good friend of the Monterey beavers came to the Board to object to the "inhumane trapping" of the animals in Monterey. In past years Maynard Forbes had not been receptive to discussing this ongoing "humans vs. beavers" debate, but Scott Jenssen suggested that they have the current town trapper, Mr. Ives, and Shawn Tryon come in for the next meeting to discuss "Beaver Deceivers" and other control methods.

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Cronk Road Redux

This time it was Martin Ross with his partner, Jenna Johnson, who came to hash out the allocation and cost of the utility poles that will eventually provide power to his seventy-acre parcel along Cronk Road.

Much of the discussion was a repeat of several meetings ago (see September Town Report), with National Grid holding fast with a proposal to run poles along Cronk Road, a plan opposed by most of the residents there. Once again, Anthony Corsee represented the National Grid engineering arm. Wayne Burkhart summed it up: "We're caught between an individual and a large policy—and an engineer with his marching orders." Mr. Corsee explained National Grid's position: "Our franchise will be losing money to another supplier if you use the pole in Monterey," referring to a pole already owned by another utility close to the Sandisfield line and somewhat closer to Mr. Ross's property than any of the National Grid poles. The discussion ended with general support for an agreement between the competing utility companies to share the burden of supplying the property. The somewhat embattled Mr. Corsee promised to bring it up with the legal department and Business Services, and get back to the Board. Meanwhile, a head-scratcher from Scott Jenssen: Why was an engineer sent to discuss business policy with the board? Why not someone who, as Mr. Jenssen put it, "can answer questions."

Karen Blodgett

Lynn Webster, Monterey School teacher (c.), and Maria Rundle (r.) joined proud parents as the kindergarten class has some Halloween fun in front of the town library.

Cell Phone Service

Steve Graves alerted the *Monterey News* to the prospect of Verizon cell phone coverage. A Verizon representative confirmed that they are now tenants of the same tower that provides AT&T service. They hope to have service available in Monterey by early December.

Kay Purcell and Maryellen Brown were voted into appointments to the Council on Aging.

—Dave Irland

(For part 2 of The Town, "Utility Initiatives", see page 16.)

The Monterey Kindergarten would like to thank all the people in town who provided treats and smiles on Halloween! While trick-or-treating we stopped at the Library, the General Store, the Post Office, the Town Hall, and the Fire Station. It was a great way to introduce the children to many of the people who make our town such a wonderful place to be!

We are also proud to report that the children at our school will have artwork displayed as part of the community exhibition *Circle Round* at the Knox Gallery in the Monterey Library. The children's artwork will be in the children's section of the library. The opening reception for the exhibition is Friday, December 5, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

—Lynn Webster
Monterey School Teacher

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Monterey Library Notes

Building Needs Survey available

Thanks to all who came to the Library Building Needs forum on November 8. Around forty people participated and enjoyed Harvest Barn refreshments supplied by the Friends of the Monterey Library. The discussion focused on various areas including the exterior, the basement, and the main floor. Karen Klopfer led a small groups exercise. She directed the participants to dream about what would be important for the Monterey Library building to best serve all the people of the community.

Many common themes came up in all the groups. Exterior needs centered on better parking and accessibility. Interior needs focused on the need for more space to work with computers and other technology, more space for children and adults, and an updated and accessible bathroom. There were general comments supporting the location and requesting that energy-efficient technologies that are "green" and sustainable be used in any renovation or construction. Looking forward to the next twenty years, participants agreed that all spaces should be flexible to allow multiple uses. Our building has served many purposes for which the original builders could have never conceived when it was built in 1931.

So the Building Needs Committee has met and gone over the results. From those results we have made up a checklist survey that will be available to you for the month of December. We challenge all of Monterey to take a moment and let us know what is important to you.

Some key questions are:

- Which are your main reasons for using the library? Please check all that apply. (16 items)
- Please tell us what you think of this library facility by checking any of the following. (16 items)
- Please rate the following in terms of importance to a possible building renovation. (15 items)

The survey will be available to you online, so check out the library page found on MontereyMA.gov. It will be available on paper at the library, the town hall, and various other locations. Also, if you would like us to send or deliver one to you, please call 413-528-3795 and leave a message.

We hope that everyone who uses the library will fill out this survey so we can prioritize the needs, but we especially challenge those of you who don't use the library to let us know what would help you to come in and use our facility. The library is free and open to all, but there may be barriers that weren't considered barriers in 1931. We want to know what would make this library more accessible to everyone who lives in Monterey and to those who are passing through who we would like to welcome.

Libraries have been important throughout history, but none are as important as free public libraries. How many of you have taken advantage of other libraries when you travel? In this information age libraries have taken on the challenge and provide services never dreamed of just a few years ago. The Monterey Library has provided diverse services to many people over the years, and we hope to expand on that tradition. We need your help for planning how to do that. You don't need to be an architect—we need you to tell the architect what is important to you. Please fill out a survey! Thank you.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

Roadside
Café & Store

Wed-Sat 7:30am - 2:00pm
413-528-2633

December Weekday Lunch Specials

Dec. 3, 4, & 5:
Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Served on a roll with coleslaw, chips and pickle

Dec. 10, 11, & 12:
Beef Stew
Tender Brisket and seasonal veggies over mashed potatoes

Dec. 17, 18, 19:
Hungarian Goulash
Served over Spaetzle

In addition to regular menu items

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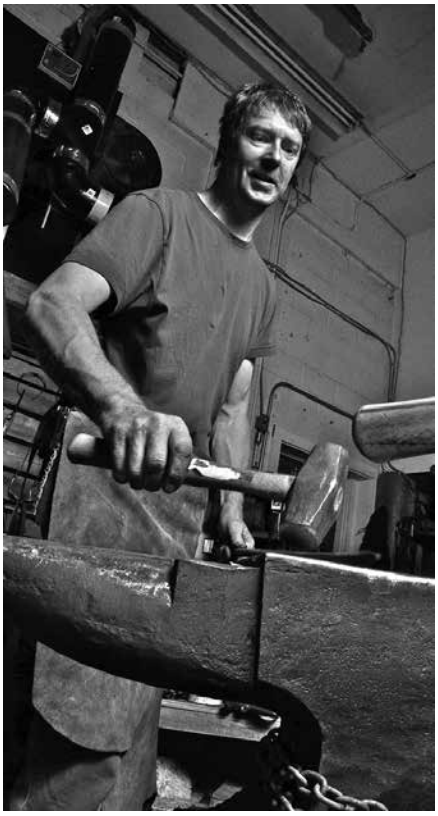

Felix Carroll

Del Martin at his anvil. His "Knox Trail Forge" has taken over half of his garage space. Del is one of several new participants in the Monterey Makers Studio Tour this year.

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Monterey Makers Studio Tour

Our 6th Tour, on December 6

It's that time of year again when many of our Monterey artists, artisans, and farmers are offering a close-up viewing of their wares and where their work is made. The Monterey Cultural Council is once again organizing a self-guided tour of over sixteen stops, including several makers who have not been on the tour before. Many of the stops will have work for sale as well as provide a chance to talk with the artists and makers themselves. Some will have demonstrations and some will have snacks, breakfast, and/or lunch.

Start off your Studio Tour day by picking up a map and maybe a snack at the Roadside Café, Harvest Barn, General Store or the Knox Gallery. Check out MontereyMaCC.org beforehand to help you make your decisions, and set off for a fun-filled day visiting the studios that peak your interest.

We'll be kicking off the event the evening before with the opening of the *Circle Round* exhibit at the Knox Gallery from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Several of the makers on the tour will be exhibiting work in the show. Refreshments will be served.

Monterey Makers Day is organized by the Monterey Cultural Council.

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2014 Studio Tour List

- Michael and Maureen Banner, silversmiths.
- Ellen Grenadier, potter .
- Nicole Campanale, handmade bowties.
- Gould Farm Harvest Barn, pastries, coffee and Gould Farm products (maple syrup, honey, vinaigrette, granola, and pancake mixes.)
- Roadside Café, breakfast and/or lunch, tea and coffee.
- Frank D'Amato, fine artist.
- Michael Erkkinen, timber framer/ woodworker.
- Rawson Brook Farm, Monterey chèvre.
- Wendy Jensen, basketmaker.
- Joe Baker, fine artist.
- Kit Patten, fine artist.
- Melissa Preston, llama fiber, honey.
- Julie Shapiro, fine artist.
- Monterey General Store, breakfast and/ or lunch, groceries.
- Roger Tryon, Lowland Farm maple syrup.
- Del Martin, blacksmith.
- Judy Hayes,fine artist.
- Edie Ross, photographer.
- Phil and Sue Knoll, fine artist.
- Linda Skipper, potter.
- Berkshire Fish Hatchery, with art by George Emmons.
- Knox Gallery, *Circle Round* exhibit.

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Knox Gallery: "Circle Round"
A Community Exhibit

The Knox Gallery is happy to kick off Monterey Makers Day with the opening of our winter community exhibit, *Circle Round,* on Friday evening, December 5, with a reception that evening from 6 to 7:30.

At the time of this writing we have not yet seen the works to be submitted, but surely our talented and inspired local friends and artists have found the theme of "circle round," whether taken literally or broadly imagined, to be an impetus for exciting new work. Please join us on December 5 to see a broad range of pieces in a variety of mediums that focus on the "round" theme. The exhibit will run until January 31.

The Knox Gallery will be open on Monterey Makers Studio Tour Day (Saturday, December 6) from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., so please come by and see the exhibit or pick up information about the artists' studios and makers' workshops that are open around town that day.

Holiday shopping for someone who seems to have everything? Please consider art when you are preparing your seasonal purchase list. Art from the Knox Gallery is a twofold gift, since 25% of the proceeds from all sales benefit your library.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours; Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

Maureen Banner

The reception for Brece Honeycutt's underfoot *exhibit drew a very enthusiastic group to look at her constructed works with paper and other materials.*

Winter Museum Passses
Available from Our Library

- The Berkshire Museum
- Norman Rockwell Museum
- Mass MoCA
- The Clark Art Museum (free in winter)
- Mystic Aquarium
- Ventfort Hall

Call the library ahead for availability when planning a trip to one of these sites. You can access a full description of the passes, museum information, and what the passes provide for on the library page of MontereyMA.gov, under "Forms and Brochures."

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Children's Book Group

The first children's book group took place on November 8, 2014.

The next meeting will take place on December 13, 2014, at 7 p.m. The book for the December meeting is *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer. Books we are hoping to read in the future are *Paint the Wind,* by Pam Munoz Ryan, *Dragonsdale,* by Salamanda Drake, and *Middle School, the Worst Years of My Life,* by James Patterson. If you would like to join please call 413-528-3795 or email montereylibrary@gmail.com.

Adult Book Group

The Monterey adult book group will discuss *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir* by Bill Bryson, on Monday, December 22, at 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library. Newcomers are encouraged and welcome. January's book will be *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger.

Community Potluck Suppers
Next Supper December 17

On a very wintry November 19th evening, a large group of potluckers greeted Michael Ballon to hear about his new book, *A Chef's Life*. He regaled us with stories about running a restaurant, taking care of customers, and the beginning of the "farm-to-table" movement in the 80s. As he reminded us, "A hundred years ago, that was the *only* way food came." We thanked him for his presentation and the lovely berry cobbler.

For the December potluck, Barbara Swann will talk about the early history of Monterey, when it was still part of Tyringham, in the aftermath of the Revolution. There were lots of hard feelings, to say the least, when the soldiers came home from a very difficult war and they were not all treated like returning heroes.

The next Monterey Potluck Dinner will be held on December 17 in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Barbara Dahlman and Kyle Pierce

Who's Who
Julie Shapiro

Julie Shapiro is an artist.

That's a factual claim, a provocative claim, or a meaningless claim, depending on how much time you spend with it and with Julie. In an age when the question "What is (and what isn't) art?" is almost absurd, unanswerable, the follow-up question "Who is (and who isn't) an artist?" is just as elusive, runaway really. We draw distinctions to try to rein it in, clear it up: fine art, folk art, figurative art, abstract art, pop art, performance art, commercial art, temporary art. But every tug at the reins only emphasizes how far gone "art" and "artists" as concepts already are.

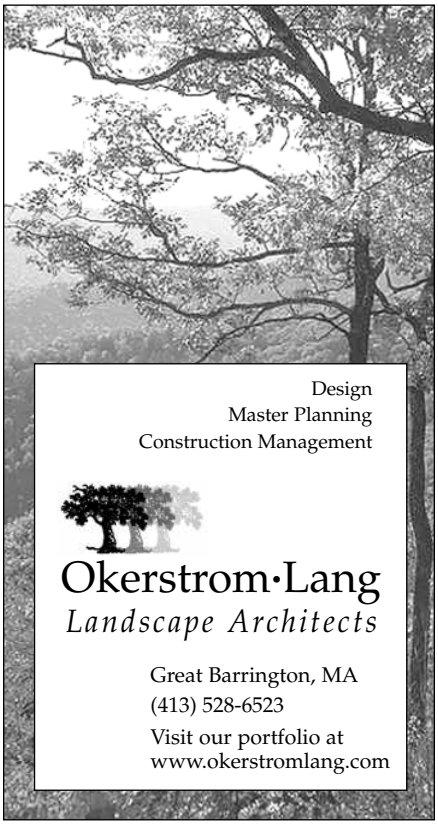
No worries: Julie seems comfortable with the heterodoxy at play in the art world. In fact, Julie seems comfortable in a fundamental way about most things. There's a quiet about her that feels both open and solid, accepting but discerning, and wise.

She lives and works in her home, once a hunting cabin that has been added on to several times. It's down a not-quite-hidden driveway, set into the woods. This is, incidentally, a far cry from New York City, which most artists call home for at least some time in their lives. Julie never has, though, and she realizes this might have come at some cost to her career: it's hard to be in the loop when you're in the woods. But in New York it would be impossible for her to have the studio space she makes good use of here, spending hours at a stretch alone at work.

It's interesting to me that she can manage such solitude. It isn't that she's alienated or alienating. It isn't that she's shy or awkward or an isolate. On the contrary, Julie has several close relationships; her husband, Allan (though he travels a lot for work), her daughter, Essy (though she is now living away, at college), her parents who live here in town, though part-time, and her brother who does live in New York City and whom she sees a lot. Then there is the community of artists she identities with in town, the several people she works with closely as one of the curators of the Knox Art Gallery, and the many people she works with occasionally as so many artists of so many types have shown their work at the Knox. So it isn't that she's a loner. It's that she's self-contained.

She's also an artist, which I say as a plain fact and which I know not because she told me so (she didn't) and not because she has an MFA. (though she does); not because nearly every year since the early 80s her work has been featured, either in group shows or as a solo act, in galleries all over the country (though it has); and not because she was a tenured professor of art at Southern Methodist University (though she was). No, I know this because, when it came time for us to choose where to settle in for our conversation, standing as we were in her entry way and poised either to go right and so into the living room or to go left and so into the studio, Julie chose left. And it didn't appear to be an entirely conscious decision. It's just where Julie goes: her studio.

It's a white room with plenty of natural light, with lamps also for when, as now, the days are simply too short. The floor is spattered with drops of dried paint and cans of wet paint, with works in progress, and finished works leaning here and there. The walls are host to a few small pieces, two large pieces, and many paper collages and cutouts that double as stencils. There is a certain order to the random placing of this and that: there's a logic to the abstractions of the room. Really, Julie's studio is her meta-work. (You could come see it yourself. Julie will open her studio



during the Monterey Makers Studio Tour, on December 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Born in Stockbridge, Julie moved with her family to Los Angeles when she was still young. It's there that she considers herself to have grown up. She attended U.C. Santa Cruz and only came back east for graduate school at Yale. After that, she went to Dallas to join the art faculty at Southern Methodist University, but that never felt like home. Culturally, she simply felt out of place.

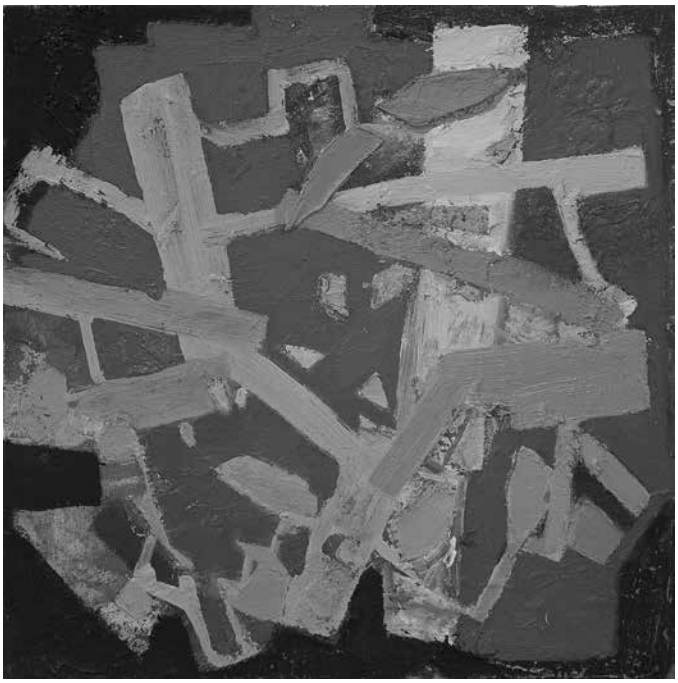
It was around then that she began spending time in Monterey. Her parents had long owned a house here, but they used it only during August. So they let her stay there from May until the beginning of each school year.

After several years of this arrangement, and after having met Allan who lived here, Julie decided to leave Dallas altogether, to leave a tenured position at the university, and to move north.

That was in 1990.

Now, sitting in the brown easy chair next to the wood stove in her studio, she seems comfortable being interviewed and wondered about. Easy, she folds herself into her chair, pulling her hair back into a clip, her work clothes saggy and folded on her slim frame. As she speaks of her art, her hands, fine and white, do much of the work of expression, and even this has implications that play out in her work.

As a painter, she has taken a certain stance among contemporary artists, a stance that is material and manipulated. Much of contemporary art aims to erase the hand behind the work, to erase the fact that this piece has been manipulated into being, isn't immaculate in conception but was worked over to be made. And the technical skill of this—of erasing the hand of the artist—is no small thing. But it's not Julie's aim. She means for her work to be testament to her hand having worked the paint, worked the canvas, worked the paper and knife, the paper and pen. And so it does, I think—her hands working decisively but also gently.



See Through*, oil on canvas, 2014*

Much of the work, in fact, calls to my mind human fingers. Her common theme is bands of color intersecting with one another—either gridlike or in a tangled thatch. But even when the lines are more or less straight and on a grid, they're edged softly. Whatever artifice comes to play in these pieces, there is as much nature here.

In fact, mirroring the installations on the opposite wall is a plate glass window outside of which trees crowd in. Even denuded of their leaves, they dominate the view. Or do they block the view?

"See, you couldn't have painted these if you spent your career in Dallas," I said. "No trees in Dallas."

"I do miss those open skies, though, sometimes," and she went on to describe the visible drama of a storm rolling in, and the closed-in feeling of New England that isn't always an easy fit.

I wondered then if these paint- >

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ings were a statement about this closed-in feeling. "Is it about power? Dominance and submission?" I asked. True, some of the intersections have the two colors blend to make a third color. But other intersections have one color crossing over the other, undeterred by what it encounters.

Behind it all, though, is the canvas, which is perhaps what we're to see. (I think of the times when I've watched a scary movie through my fingers knit together.) What's the focal point of it all—the top layer of colored stipe, the under-layer, or the otherwise blank space at the foundation?

"It's relationship," she said easily, not correcting me, just saying what she sees, "which can be about power, but isn't necessarily." More generally, Julie appreciates that the answers to such questions will be different on any given day, will change as the painting stands through time and changes in light and mood.

In fact, not sentimental about her pieces, she's pleased to sell whatever she can, and enjoys imagining someone living with one of her paintings, seeing it differently from day to day. Is something being obscured by the stripes, or protected by them, or contained, held back? Has something violent happened to create that tangled thatch of color, or has something been freed to wander across the space? (I think of aerial street maps of Boston, the streets created by long-ago wandering livestock.) There's a strange, loosed beauty to it all that isn't about beauty's conventions (symmetry, balance, proportion, control), rather it is about harmonies of color and a softness of line.

If the work invites an encounter, it's more approach than provocation and certainly more than attack. What's revealed here, revealed of any who take Julie's art in and revealed of Julie herself, is done in gentleness, acceptance, and warmth.

—Liz Goodman

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Bridget Krans

London, Sophia, and Ainsley Krans

St. Peter's Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Hi, my name is Sophia Krans. I am nine years old and my younger sisters and I have a challenge we would like your help with. The Saint Peter's food pantry in Great Barrington has had to turn families away because they do not have enough donations. It is run on volunteers and donations only. They do not get any state aid.

I need your help to gather as many nonperishable food items, disposable baby diapers, and as much baby food as you can and drop them off in the donation boxes at the Monterey Library and the Monterey Town Hall. After you donate, my family and I will pick up the donations the week before Christmas and deliver them to the pantry. I am hoping that if I collect enough donations, a few more families can have good meals during the winter months. I hope you will join me in this great challenge!!

Thank you!!

—Sophia Krans

Many Monterey folks know the extended Raifstanger family in Great Barrington and Alford through their business, Kwik-Print, and their long residence in the area. Early this November, Trinity Raifstanger, age thirty-nine, arrived at the end of her eighteen-month long battle with melanoma. She left behind "A Cautionary Tale", a brave warning to us all, which she chose to have included in the Order of Service for her funeral.

A Cautionary Tale

I was young. I loved make up and hairspray and watched "Who's the Boss" for Sam's fashion advice. I also loved me a good tan. There was nothing that a little sun-kissed look didn't help. lt made you look… healthy. And living in New England, you were limited to just a few short months of warm weather, so the next best thing was to fake and bake.

Just about everyone I knew did it. I even remember going with my mother when I was in high school to get a base for our Florida vacations because having a base would ensure not getting a burn on vacation. Burns were bad, right? And fifteen minutes in a tanning booth versus hours of time on the beach surely had to be better for you, right? lf l only knew.

Tanning beds are straight UVA rays. They've led us to believe that this is "safer" because it's the UVE rays that are harmful and cause cancer. Garbage!!

Here I am, a thirty-nine-year-old mother of three beautiful children, an incredible husband, and a life filled with love, support, and promise. And here I

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am with Stage IV melanoma cancer in my liver and brain.

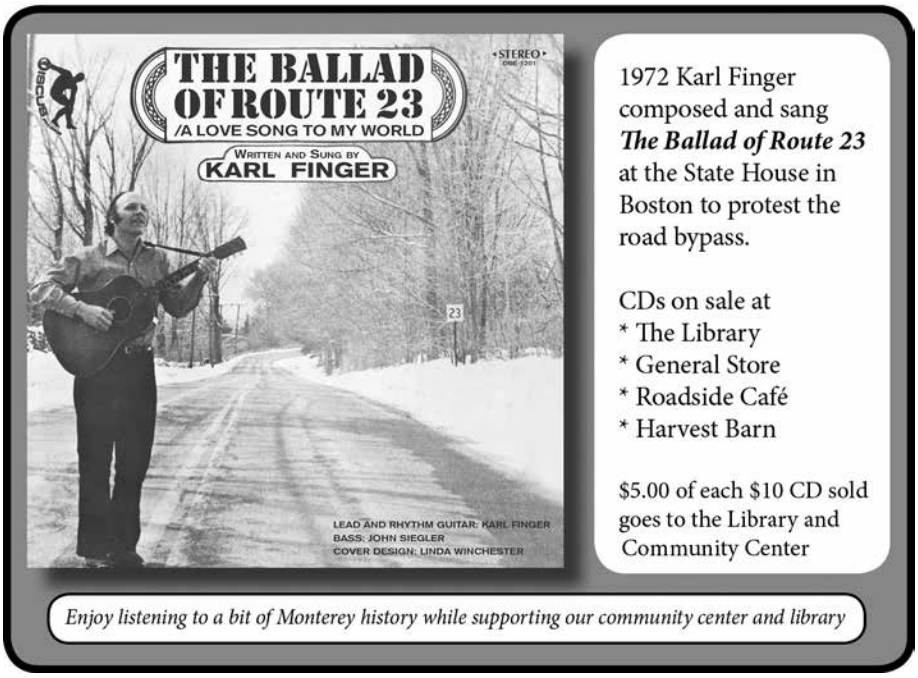
Melanoma occurrence has gone up 700% since the I970s. Coincidentally, the same time tanning beds hit the scene. There are now studies that show fifteen minutes in a tanning bed is equivalent to an entire day in the sun. Boy, were we misled.

So, I ask you, is that golden tan really worth the risk?! I have been through treatments that have made me gain thirty pounds in a week from capillary leakage. That's right, capillary leakage. How disgusting does that sound?! I lost my mind and hallucinated, I've lost my hair and am preparing to lose it again. My skin has been burnt, surgically cut into, and insanely speckled with moles. l've had conversations with my children asking me that if I died, "why can't they die with me?" Surely, a tan can't be worth any of that!

There are too many risks, people. Learn from me. Make this all worth something. You are needed by your people. Get an annual full body scan, a good SPF sunscreen, and sign up for a spray tan.

— Trinity Raifstanger

(An entry from Trinity's Caring Bridge journal.)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Ballad of Route 23

How Our History Played Out

"Nowadays, we are all becoming increasingly aware of the need to preserve our natural environment. Communities throughout the world are grappling with the problems caused by man's past disregard for the ecological balance of nature and are beginning to learn the importance of man's close relationship with his and her only home, earth. One such community is Monterey, Massachusetts (pop. 601)."

In the early 1970s, a highly motivated group of Monterey citizens traveled to Boston to let lawmakers know that some in Monterey were opposed to the redirection of Route 23 around the village and through ecologically sensitive land (for a cost of $4 million). It was an issue that initially divided many neighbors. On a cold February morning a group who called themselves "Save Scenic Monterey" boarded a bus and headed to the State House in Boston.

"On the way, someone suggested that Karl Finger (a Monterey singer, songwriter and social activist) sing his testimony before the lawmakers. So, as the bus rolled along, Karl jotted down the song. Thus the Ballad of Route 23 was born as the first musical testimony ever presented to the Massachusetts State Legislative Committee."

In April 1972 the bypass construction was unanimously defeated. That was forty-two years ago and it is hard to believe that we are still grappling with environmental issues.

Purchasing a CD will help to support both our Community Center and Library, preserving the heart and soul of what makes Monterey a very special place to live.

(Excerpts from the back of the original 1972 record)

— Wendy Germain

ॐ

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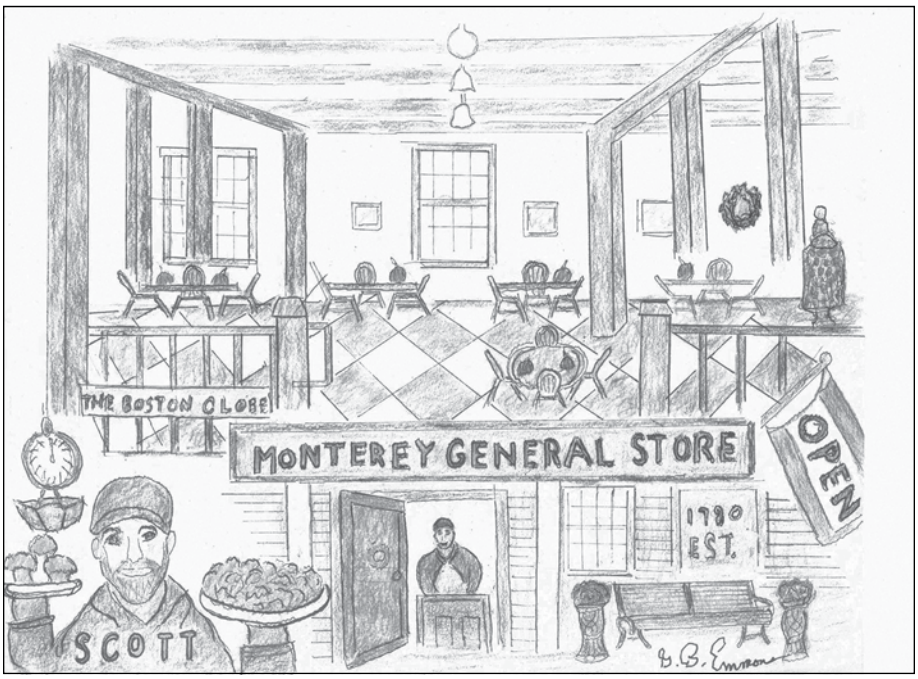

Two years ago the Monterey General Store re-opened under proprietor Scott Edward Cole, after nineteen years of owning Caffé Pomo d'Oro in West Stockbridge. He succeeded Ken Basler, the proprietor for six years, who is now serving the town on the Monterey Select Board. The Store is the second oldest continually operated store in the country. In the past, owners often preferred to live upstairs, both to economize on the cost of residential and retail overhead, and to be on-hand for the long hours a store demands. Scott rents from the Heberts just across and up the street for hands-on management proximity.

Scott brings a creative culinary spin to the table with daily freshly baked pastries, cakes, pies, muffins, breads, cookies, croissants, as well as a well-rounded country menu for breakfast and lunch. He also offers customized cooking and catering for community events, celebrations, and parties. Scott, now forty-six, credits his career to his stepmother Mariena Da Plasi, a life-long mentor and role model. Scott employs three courteous greeters who recognize the old country store attitude that "our customers are our friends and are also always right." They are Kyle Pierce, Nina Campus, and Beth Freeman.

The store continues as a meeting hub and community heart of Monterey. In 1997 my *Monterey News* article and illustration (as a new member of daily coffee club) painted a character portrait of Americana, "good old boys" gathered for conversation, ambassadors of good will to visitors. I labeled them "the cracker barrel bunch," gathered around a country store trademark pot-bellied stove. Today five members from that time, Dick Tryon, Ray Tryon, George Emmons, Ed Briggs, Steve Kahn, are still members along with the new gentlemen. We gather daily in the church basement, for breakfast at Roadside on Thursdays, and at the store on Fridays.

It was Mark Twain who said that the one thing we all have in common is a childhood. Monterey's landmark store is a source of memories of growing up around Lake Garfield, coming to the store for an ice cream cone, a sign—"No bathing suits or bare feet!" John Steinbeck dramatized the candy counter of the country store for children of all ages in his depression-era novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, when two sticks of licorice were a penny. The two brown signs on either side of the front door with the date 1780 were part of the original storefront. At a time when travel was more limited, the small-town store motto "If we don't have it, you don't need it" pointed to the range of necessary goods

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kept on hand. Monterey's landmark store has evolved over two centuries of retail business in a marketplace of national chain stores, discounters, catalog houses, warehouse club plans, and cyber shops.

It is that time of year to count our blessings, and particularly for the Monterey General Store. You can find Berkshire-grown produce from local farms, a state-of-the-art display case of choice cold cuts, plus a sophisticated variety of perfectly aged cheeses. When you come in for papers and coffee, please look around for gift giving choices. There are cards, condiments, and artwork (including this illustration to benefit Hatchery scholarships).

We wish you all happy holidays, Merry Christmas, and a happy new year.

—George B. Emmons

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An Istanbul Encounter
Two Stories

Michele and I were spending a week with friends from Lenox in Istanbul. I believe Delight and Paul were on a Rhodes tour, but what do I know? We ran into each other on the plaza in front of the New Mosque, in the Eminonu neighborhood of Istanbul. Go figure.

—Peter Murkett

Bart Arnold

On September 30, while I was standing in line for a public ladies' room near Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, someone called out my name. There was Michele Miller, emerging from a genie's lamp. One more rub of the lamp and there appeared Peter Murkett. They said they were on a food tour, but I knew better. Who else would I expect to see in magical Turkey…nothing surprises me any more.

—Delight Dodyk

Monterey Community Center News

Check us out—we're on Facebook and Twitter (@MontereyComCtr) now. Look for the Monterey Community Center pages on these sites thanks to Leah Weisgal and MaryPaul Yates, respectively.

Our new walls will be put in place on the former Wilson-McLaughlin House in early December. These will be six-inch-thick structural strength panels sandwiching dense foam insulation, custom-formed window and door openings, with exterior wood panels and interior drywall.

We have received gifts for over half of the new windows we will be buying (energy-efficient, long-lasting, low-maintenance, double-hung windows that are in the same style as the former windows), and as we are able, additional windows will be purchased and installed as well. Please see our website for how you can quickly and easily be part of our "Buy a Window" campaign — team up with friends if you like. You can send a check to FWMH at PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245, or donate through our secure website donation portal at CCMonterey.org. Be sure to note on the check or the web form that your donation is for "Buy a Window."

We also have the benefit of a matching funds opportunity right now in our ongoing Capital Campaign. Donations received up to a total of $8,000 by December 12 will be matched one to one. This is an ideal moment for you to participate in building our new center.

—The MCC committee

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In Remembrance
Alice O. Howell-Andersen

Alice O. Howell, just shy of age ninety-two, died Tuesday, October 28, 2014. A resident of Monterey for the past thirty-three years, she was born in Cambridge, MA, on November 13, 1922, to Reginald Orcutt and Penelope King Orcutt. She spent her childhood living in hotels and boarding schools throughout Europe, visiting thirty-seven countries and meeting interesting people that inspired her writing. This includes *The Beejum Book*, a novel based on her childhood experiences. She taught English, French, and history in private schools on Long Island for eighteen years.

A writer, poet, astrologer, and Jungian Scholar, she lectured around the world, published nine books, and taught courses at the Jung Institutes of Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. She is recognized as a pioneer in linking psychology and astrology.

She was married to Douglass M. Howell, artist and papermaker, for twenty-six years, and had four children. Their marriage ended in divorce. In 1980, she married her soul mate, Walter A. Andersen, and they settled in Monterey and had more than eighteen years of happiness. Alice suffered from a stroke, but was still able to teach, practice, and inspire many people until recently. She was beloved by and touched many people throughout her life.

Widowed in 1998, she is survived by her four children, Dr. Timothy Howell and his wife Dr. Meg Little, of Madison, WI, Abby Howell Smith and her husband Michael Smith of Edgecombe, ME, Elisabeth Howell King and her husband Al King, of Monterey, MA, and Jennifer Howell and her husband Rick Van Ness of Mukilteo, WA, stepson Einar Andersen and his wife Judie Andersen, of Agoura Hills, CA, and her sister-in-law, Arlene Orcutt, of Warwick, RI. She also has fourteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother, Fridrik Orcutt.

The date for a memorial service will be announced in the future.

In lieu of flowers. donations in memory of Alice may be made to HospiceCare in the Berkshires through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. To send remembrances to her family go to www.finnertyandstevens.com

Her family thanks her loving caregivers, Sandy Keefner, Nettie Ellis, Mindy Gulotta, Martha Sloane, and Diana Zeigler, with special thanks to Stacy Garfield for her many years of faithful service. The family is also grateful for the support of the staff at HospiceCare in the Berkshires.

ॐ

Alice O. Howell, longtime resident of Beartown Mountain Road a
me some time ago to print her poem "Daphne Sleeps" in the New
Here it is. Sail on, dear Alice . . .—Will Marsh

Sixteen

I will lay me down
and make my own horizon

and the mantle of the sky
will be light upon me
and the waters of the wells of dreams
will rise and spill lightspun streams
through the lovely colored ribbons
of my mind

I will pluck flowers of hope
make a bouquet of words:
holy herb, hyssop, prince's pine and balm
and weave a garland of stars for him

and I will look for him
past the meridians of night
until I find him

he will smile at me and touch my flowers
he will play and carry me away like a strong horse
and close my eyes with kisses
he will smell of sweetgrass and bark

and no one will come
and no one will talk
no one ask why
and we will lie together in silence all the night

and God himself will sigh

and contributor of many poems and articles to the Monterey News *over the years, passed away at home on Tuesday, October 28. She had asked ws when she had her Aberduffy Day (Alice's name for the day one dies, from, according to Alice's etymology, "aber," river, and "duffy," black).*

"Daphne Sleeps" – Alice O. Howell

Thirty-six

I will lay me down
and try to make my own horizon

and the mantle of life
will be heavy
and the waters of the wells
of dreams
will rise and spill their torpid streams
through the rusty injunctions
of my mind

and I will pluck flowers of regret
necessity and rue
and weave a garland of suggestions

but I will hound him
past the meridians of the market
until I find him

he will turn away and touch his till
he will find fault with the food
he will put himself between my thighs
take relief and grope
for the bathroom light
and smell of disappointment

and the children will cry
scream and fight
and we will lie in silence all the night

and God himself will sigh

Eighty-six

I will lay me down
and make my last horizon

and the mantle of years
will be scraps
and the waters of the wells
of dreams
will rise and spill starsprung streams
through the rapid resignations
of my mind

I will pluck memories
past the meridians of reason
and give all it ever was
to whatever there is

and I will look for truth
past the meadows of my life
until I find Him

He will smile to see my flowers
He will carry me away with the wind
He will gather me to his breast
and kiss my eyes in death
He will smell new and promised

and those that come
those that talk
or think they know why
will lie in silence all the night

and God himself will sigh.

The Town

Utility Initiatives

by Dave Irland

From Select Board meetings October 20 through November 17

The town is being asked to consider initiatives for two services—broadband Internet and telephone connectivity through a fiber optic network, and cooperative purchasing for electricity.

The WiredWest broadband proposal has been in the works for several years, but the town is now being asked to take more formal action for town participation to move forward. An alternative approach for broadband connectivity is also a possibility.

The opportunities to pool electricity usage for more competitive pricing, or for solar generation, are recent developments.

Fiber Optic Network

Monterey resident Monica Webb is a spokesperson for WiredWest, a municipal, nonprofit communications company dedicated to making a truly high-speed internet connection available for 100% of Monterey residents and businesses. Ms. Webb stressed that her organization had looked at every conceivable financial option to fund such a venture, and came up with a price tag of approximately $100 to $119 million to connect the forty-four nearby towns not currently served. Monterey's projected cost would be in the $1.5 to $2 million range, paid for by general obligation bonds issued to the town, though all the town's bonds would be sold together, bringing in a low interest rate. If all the towns participate in the ambitious, forward-looking plan, then within three years it might be brought to completion. Denser towns increase efficiencies, but more towns on-board equal more subscribers. However, fewer towns would shorten the timeline to completion. The main bottlenecks for the project would be what she called "make ready" work, assessing poles and organizing with current utility pole tenants. Ms. Webb said that no construction could begin until they had hit at least a 40% subscription rate. WiredWest currently has a promise of 67% from Monterey town residents. The success of the project would also depend on high subscription rates from surrounding towns.

Suggested cost on the consumer end, she said, might be in the range of $45 to $49 per month for internet, phone, and video. Ms. Webb, looking to the future, spoke about the possibility of tele-medicine and advanced cloud services, and characterized her company's approach as "more service for the least dollars," versus the corporate approach, "the least service for the most dollars."

Presenting an alternative approach, Adam Chait of Fiber Connect, came before the Board to procure easements for his private venture to build out the infrastructure for 55,000 feet of fiber optic cable, much of which he'd like to bury. When questioned closely by Ray Tryon about the difficulties of burying wire in this area, Mr. Chait assured him that he was familiar with the challenges. Either way, he said there were utilities poles he might not end up using, and was appearing before the Board simply to seek easements to allow him to start breaking ground in the spring.

Ms. Webb from WiredWest was in attendance for Mr. Chait's request, and there ensued a back-and-forth discussion that Wayne Burkhart worked hard to keep within the bounds of productive give-and-take, since both Ms. Webb and Mr. Chait are coming at the opportunity from very different positions. Mr. Chait argued that he wasn't "cherry picking" customers, and repeated his claim that he would serve approximately 75% to 80% of the town. Ms. Webb pointed out that that last 20% was what cost the most, and clearly he was not out for the benefit of the entire

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town. Mr. Chait repeated that he was only there to seek easements, that he was not pushing anybody out of contention, and that anyone was welcome to serve the final 20% at any time.

Listening to all sides, the Board declined to grant the easements at this time, and continued the discussion for further analysis and information gathering. Scott Jenssen, for one, came out clearly in favor of backing Ms. Webb and her company, since she'd been there from the time the issue was ever floated, and he felt it made no sense to change.

For more information about the WiredWest project, see the Select Board's message on page 25, and "Last Mile Fact Sheet" from WiredWest on page 18.

This month's question from the Select Board asks if Monterey should support WiredWest and the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI). See page 26.

Cooperative Power Buying

Mark Cappadona from the Colonial Power Group came before the board to talk "utilities aggregation," an approach to electric utilities that towns have been using since around the time of deregulation in 2002. The prospect of huge National Grid rate hikes (brought about by two power plant closings, one in New York, and a nuclear plant in Vermont) came up once again. Towns close by—Tyringham, Lenox, West Stockbridge, and New Marlborough—have all joined similar programs. Utilities aggregation, in simplest terms, uses collective bargaining power. If the town of Monterey decides to represent itself as a single consumer, it can then lower rates by shopping competitively.

Mr. Cappadona characterized it as an "opt-out" plan, in which anyone at any time can drop participation. These opt-outs usually end up comprising about 3% of total enrollment. Given large enough numbers of customers, towns can make a choice to go fully "green," using solely hydropower, or solar power, or a combination thereof, though prices will reflect the use of alternative sources.

While hard numbers are obviously subject to fluctuation, at present the current comparison might be (on the wholesale end) about 12.2 cents/kWh for the aggregate price, compared to about 16.3 cents from National Grid. (Retail to the consumer would end up being higher in both cases.)

The Department of Public Utilities will be, and has been, the major block to getting these programs up to speed, and they are reported to take about six months to process the requests, and with a new governor, things may be moving even more slowly than usual.

Solar Power

Representing The Solar Guild (www.solarizeberkshires.com), based in Lanesboro, MA, Mark Guilds gave the Board an overview of what he called "solar integration," in which towns like Monterey can invest in large-scale solar panel installations which would provide virtually free electricity to every household in town (approximately 774 full-time residents, according to Melissa Noe).

Mr. Guild mentioned the for-profit nature of his company, but stressed the benefits of being proactive in the face of proposed 33% rate hikes from National Grid this winter. He called it "protection for tomorrow's generation." Mr. Guild lauded his company's software, capable of calculating the town's kilowatts-per-year needs.

Whether to solarize individual homes or create a solar farm remained an open question. Scott Jenssen mentioned a ten-acre parcel behind the school sitting idle. According to Mr. Guild, the financing of a to-be-determined million-dollar bond would in effect be the town's electric bill, rather than individual homeowner paying National Grid. He claimed that if in fact Monterey were to become 100% solar, it would be unique.

—Dave Irland

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WiredWest
Last Mile Project Fact Sheet

WiredWest and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) are actively working to bring high-speed broadband internet service to all premises in forty-four western Massachusetts towns that are poorly served, including Monterey. This project has the full support of the area's legislative delegation.

MBI recently completed a "middle mile" fiber-optic network serving town halls and other public facilities in western and central Massachusetts. With support from the towns, MBI is planning to construct a regional "last mile" fiber network to connect homes, businesses, and other organizations in those towns, taking advantage of economies of scale and other benefits of acting on a regional basis. The network will be owned and operated on behalf of the towns by WiredWest, a municipal cooperative formed by the towns for this purpose.

Based on extensive engineering, financial, and legal work, MBI and WiredWest are finalizing a project plan. The total capital required is estimated to be up to $100-119 million, depending on the number of towns which choose to participate. Bonds issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will give MBI $40 million for the project, with the balance of funds to come from general obligation bonds issued by participating towns.

The capital costs allocated to a town will be based on detailed engineering of the actual cost to build out that town. Based on MBI's preliminary determination, a town's share of state funds will be determined by the miles of fiber and number of premises in town. The town will finance the remainder of those capital costs with its bonds.

While towns will be responsible for principal and interest payments on their bonds, WiredWest will reimburse them in whole or in part, depending on the financial performance of the network. Signing up customers is critical to the success of the network. If it generates earnings above the debt service, WiredWest's member towns will determine the disposition of the surplus funds.

Town Actions Required

To participate as a "Fiber Town" on the network, Monterey must take the following steps:

- By December 31, the Select Board must pass a nonbinding resolution expressing its intention to participate in the project and to seek approval of the bond issuance.
- As early as this spring, a town meeting must by a 2/3 vote authorize issuance of the bonds. Some towns may be required as well to pass a Proposition 2½ override.
- At the same time, 40% of its households must sign a conditional contract to take service—internet, phone and/or TV—when it becomes available, plus make a small deposit.

WiredWest, MBI, and MBI's contractor, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, will work closely with the towns to help them to complete these steps.

Pricing Estimates

Preliminary pricing for residential services is estimated as follows:

- $45 to $49 for 25 mbps internet, with higher speeds available up to 1 gbps;
- $59 for 25 mbps internet plus basic phone service; full-featured digital phone for $20 more
- $124-149 for internet/phone/TV "triple-play," depending on levels of component services

Timeline for the Project

Below is the project timetable (may be shortened if fewer than all forty-four towns participate). Additionally, high pre-subscriptions via the conditional contract may be a consideration for towns being built out earlier in the schedule.

- "Make-ready" to prepare utility poles for cabling begins spring 2015
- Construction of the network begins spring 2016 on a rolling basis as poles are ready
- Service to customers begins spring 2017 as network segments are completed
- Project completed by the end of 2019

For further information, please refer to the WiredWest website, WiredWest.net

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Journey Home

Year-end: time for reflection. If you've been taking your roots for granted, the folks whose names you know and the ancestors whose names you don't know, consider what it might be like to be without them.

I think back, seven years ago last summer. I'm more or less in Edinburgh, Scotland. It's morning. I'm a classic stranger in a strange land: wandering in airport world, trusting in the wisdom of ceiling-mounted displays to guide me the rest of my way from Newark, New Jersey, onward to the plane my ticket swears will take me Kirkwall, Orkney. I am without coffee but with two friends. We're all rolling our suitcases, striding along a corridor lined with stalls and shops.

The overhead lights are too bright and too yellow. Something catches my attention out of the corners of both my eyes, so I lag behind. Stop, look around, stare. This time I squint, shake my head. The sudden grin on my face is a full-body lightning bolt.

"Wait a minute," I call to my friends. "Am I crazy? Or, do all these people look like me?"

I make a sweeping gesture, toward the men and women on our left and right: the bagel bakers, the newspaper, candy, and magazine purveyors, the janitors and the ones whose tasks I can't identify.

Katharine and Sarita drag their suitcases back to where I'm rooted. They look around. They nod, almost in unison.

"Yes," Kath says. "They do. Now hurry up or we'll miss our connection." Oh. Right. Kath's on the original mission. But I'm still musing.

I do look very much like Mom, enough so that the folks at the orphanage re-routed my original adoption papers to bring together the family I know and love as mine. But this feels different. This is different.

This is my first time totally surrounded by people who—except for my two friends, the only two people here whom I know—share with me this intangible, below-the-skin, palpable connection. I'm standing, stunned, suddenly home on an island whose sea air I haven't even smelled yet; a multi-country island, inhabited by more people who look like me than don't.

Mary Kate Jordan

The Ring of Brodgar, estimated to be between 4,000 and 4,500 years old, on Orkney Island, Scotland.

There's something homogenized about us here, something I never saw or felt in even the most Celtic/British gathering stateside. Stateside's a melting pot, even when it looks lily-white. Here, we're all… well, certainly not English. I'm standing in Scotland, after all. But we're … blood kin.

My friends and I reach the gate together. We're the last three on the plane. We spend a week with others immersed in Orkney Island Neolithic culture. We gather inside the standing-stones of the Ring of Brodgar for late-night ritual. The sun never really sets. We study. We share shamanic journeys inside a space carved out of one single, smooth, dark stone—a space large enough for three of us to lie down at one time—a space carved before the advent of metal tools.

We go in and out of doors carved into hillsides five thousand years ago. We go out for the best Indian food I've ever eaten, proving that not absolutely everyone here looks like me. Some look like Sarita. Other days we dine on cheese and oatcakes. Doesn't matter. My hunger's already filled. This week Alex Halley has nothing on me. I've found my roots. I know it in my blood. I may never stop grinning. Not even after the turn of all my years.

—Mary Kate Jordan

ॐ

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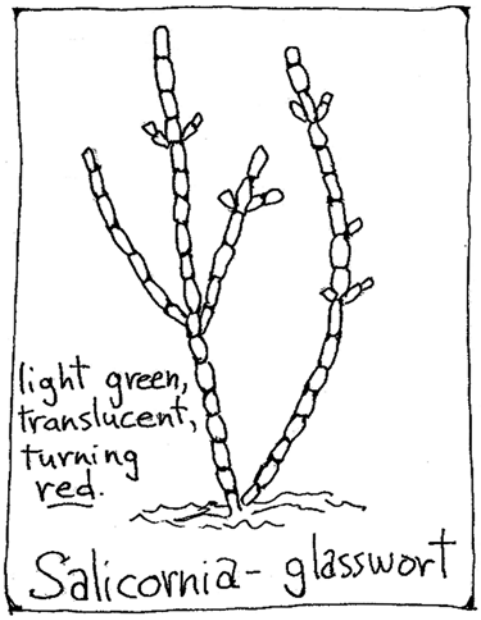
What's in a Name?
Night Warblers and Glassworts

There are so many wonders, in heaven and earth, that a body would have to be most rare and unlucky not to run upon a few now and then which are brand-new acquaintances. The most fortunate explorer is the one who spots a new wonder and stops to notice. Often we are travelling so fast we can't even see the wonders. They can be small, or invisible. Sometimes they are only audible, as in the case of Thoreau's mysterious "night–warbler."

Writing in his journal, Thoreau notices this wonder again and again over a ten-year period, and he almost never sees it. For all his interest and noting of things wild and natural, this famous student and writer of natural history had no binoculars or field glass until 1854. By this time he was thirty-seven and had been keeping his detailed journal for seventeen years. He got the spy-glass at last. He wrote of himself that he did not buy things until long after he had started to want them. This meant that when he got them, he was "prepared to make a perfect use of them." (H. Thoreau, Journal, Vol. 1, 1837-1847, Gibbs M. Smith, Inc. 1984.)

Four years after he gets his glass, he writes with excitement, "Looking through the glass I saw that it was the Maryland yellow-throat!!" (Journal, Aug. 5, 1858). But a few years later he called it the night-warbler, once again.

In Thoreau's day there were no handy field guides, and he did not belong to a bird-watching club. His friend Ralph Waldo Emerson considered Thoreau to be quite knowledgeable about all things in the wild, but then Emerson himself knew very little. Emerson went so far as to warn Thoreau of the danger of identifying and "booking" the night-warbler. According to Bradford Torrey, ornithologist and early editor of the journal, Emerson gave this warning to his young neighbor, "lest life henceforth should have so much the less to show him."



In his introduction to the Journal, Vol. 1, Torrey says Thoreau "cherished for himself a pretty favorable opinion of a certain kind and measure of ignorance." Also, "He flatters himself that his good genius had withheld their names from him that he might better learn their characters."

Nowadays anyone with a smartphone is never very far from a great deal of information, including birds and their songs and much that has been written about them, probably even by Henry Thoreau himself. We are often perilously close to "booking it," and maybe to losing something, as Emerson warned. Even if we are not of the smartphone generation, we may have a bundle of field guides along. If not, we may photograph or snip the brand-new wonder and take it home to look it up. Back in the day, folks shot the birds and took them home.

I was on the seacoast in October and came upon a night-warbler of my own. This was a botanical one, a little succulent plant growing out of the coarse sand in the upper tidal zone in Milbridge, Maine, where a friend and I were visiting my cousin. I was up and out early, the tide was out. The upper tidal was dry enough to walk and I was looking down, staying out of puddles, when I saw a brand new wonder. It was about eight inches tall, a plant, succulent, a thick-ish stem made of sections. There were many, and most were green, but some were bright red. Never before in my life, outdoors and observant, had I seen this marvel. I got back to the house for breakfast and delivered my excited report. My pals looked excited, ready for adventure. But by this time the tide was up and my wonder too far out to see.

By great luck, we were back on the home front at the end of the day when

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the tide was drawn out again. I led them all down there and showed them the bright red, translucent stick of a plant. My cousin was just as mystified as I, but my friend from England, a biologist like me, said, "Isn't that glasswort?"

Glasswort? I never heard of such a thing! And how amazing that she, far from her native continent, should be conversant with this New England treasure while my cousin and I were not. She didn't have much more to say about it, but I picked one and stuck it in our car vase for the rest of our travels, topping up the water when it got low. The plant got droopy, and I wondered if it needed sea water.

Home at last, I have taken that name and put it to work. It has opened for me the world of the glasswort knowledge of others so now I can go on about glass-making and potash as compared with soda-ash. Glassworts belong to the genus *Salicornia* and they take up sodium from sea water. You can collect the plants, dry them and burn them, then mix the ashes with water and lift the soluble sodium carbonate into the water that way. Then boil it off like the water in maple sap and you are left with soda ash, valuable for making soda-based glass.

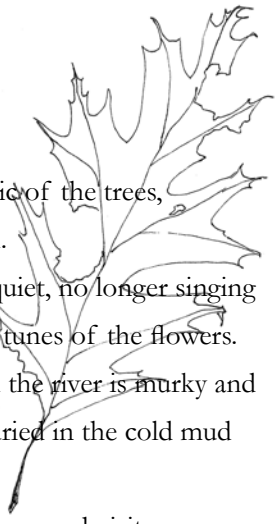
I learned this and lots more because my friend "booked it" for me. I don't think the world had less to offer me, rather more, thanks to books and internet articles.

When I get back to Milbridge, Maine, I will be looking for glasswort, also called samphire, sea pickle, and seepweed. When we meet again, I won't see it brand new, but in a context of other folks' uses and observations, also remembering my own first thrill. If I am lucky, I will still look clearly. This time I may taste it. I may take my glass and look closely for its tiny flowers in late August, growing out between those fleshy sections of stem. There is always more to see, more to think about. Thoreau named his mystery bird, and then he kept noticing.

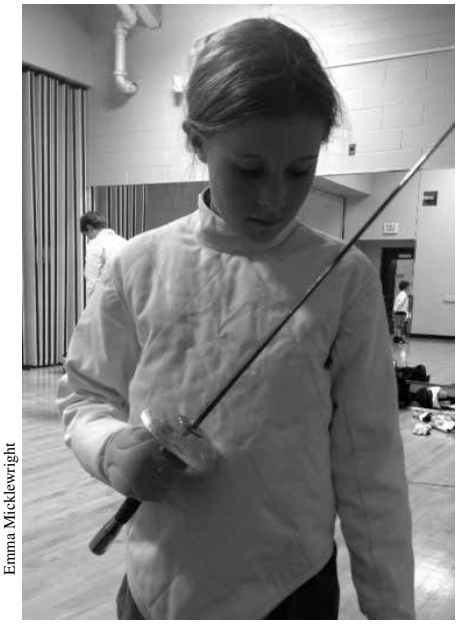
"The night-warbler is a powerful singer for so small a bird. It launches into the air above the forest, or over some hollow or open space in the woods, and challenges the attention of the woods by its rapid and impetuous warble, and then drops down swiftly into the tree-tops like a performer withdrawing behind the scenes, and he is lucky who detects where it alights." (Journal, May 18, 1860.)

—Bonner McAllester

Autumn



Wind is howling.
Months are chilly.
Leaves are swirling.
Dancing to the music of the trees,
Swaying in the wind.
The birds are now quiet, no longer singing
their sweet summer tunes of the flowers.
The lake is dull, and the river is murky and
deep, its life now buried in the cold mud
beneath the surface.
Later, Jack Frost comes and visits,
turning our beautiful land into a wistful
wonderland, covered in a thin layer of
delicate ice.
Summer has left us,
Autumn, closing in.
The snow will come soon, but not yet,
For autumn is not ready yet.
It has yet to show us more.

—Charlotte Micklewright, age 10.

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Monterey: A Gift-Giver's Utopia

From as far back as I can remember, my greatest holiday experience has been to search for that perfect gift for the special people in my life—and then to see their joy in receiving it. But over the years, my enthusiasm for gift-giving has waned as beloved retail shops disappeared, and with them, quality U.S.-made products. That is, until I moved to Monterey.

We reside in a holiday shopper's paradise. In the coming days that mark the "countdown" to Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Years, you need not look further than your own Berkshires backyard to load up your gift sack for friends and family. Here is a partial list of great gift ideas that can save you time, money, and gas.

- The Monterey Makers Open Studio Tour —December 6 is the day to mark on your calendar. That's when you'll have the opportunity to view the high-quality, unique work crafted by your artisan neighbors. Please see the article on page 6 for the listings of those that will be participating. Many studios will have items for sale—or will take your order. Not to be missed.
- Bizen restaurant gift certificates — Neighbor Michael Marcus owns and operates this gourmet Japanese restaurant and sushi bar in Great Barrington, and even makes the pottery that it's served on. Truly a unique experience.
- Bola Granola—Developed and packaged locally by Monterey resident Michele Miller, this treat will win over friends and family—mine are hooked after sampling it at Octoberfest. Available at the Monterey General Store or online.
- Glass-bottom Brewery ale—If you tasted Monterey neighbor Eric Williams's craft ales at Octoberfest, you know this is a gift everyone on your list will enjoy—or at least those aged eighteen or older. Check online for local distributors.
- Harvest Barn treats at Gould Farm—Locally baked pastries and breads are a favorite gift. You can even place an order in advance. If you're hosting a holiday dinner, do yourself a favor and pick up desert here.
- Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library—Check out the artwork featured in this month's exhibit, Circle Round. Many pieces are for sale, with a percentage of proceeds going to the library.
- Monterey General Store gift certificates—Visiting friends love to take home something from the array of foods and "curiosities" that owner Scott Cole has personally selected. Or maybe they'd like to treat themselves to a tasty breakfast or lunch.
- Prairie Whale Restaurant gift certificates—You've heard the buzz about this exquisite farm-to-table restaurant owned by neighbors Mark and Bettina Firth, former restaurateurs in NYC. Why not give the gift of Berkshires dining to friends and family?
- Pure Monterey maple syrup—Monterey neighbors Roger Tryon and Joe Baker toil through the winter months so we can enjoy this home-grown delicacy. You can purchase Roger's syrup right in his sugar house at Lowland Farms on New Marlboro Road. Joe Baker's syrup is stocked at the General Store. For a special treat, enclose a gift card suggesting that the giftee pour warm syrup over fresh snow for a real winter treat.
- Quilts and American Girl doll clothes—Neighbor Pat Nourse sells handmade quilts in youth (32" x 43") and lap (38" x 60") sizes, as well as clothes that fit American Girl dolls. Pat also "gives back" by donating quilts to young patients at Children's Hospital in Boston. She takes orders by phone 413-644-9530.
- Roadside restaurant gift certificates—What better way to say, "Let's get together for lunch?" Wrap it inside a Roadside mug, available for purchase at the restaurant, along with their many other locally made gift items.
- The Gift of Wellness—Locals Kit Patten (massage therapy) and Connie Wilson (yoga) offer gift certificates that will naturally lift friends' spirits during the cold, and sometimes stressful, winter months. Call them at 528-3798.
- The Swap Shop at the town dump—Don't laugh. It's a great way to "Repurpose, Reuse, and Recycle." For example, a vintage vase filled with winter pines and berried twigs will make a lovely centerpiece at your host's holiday table. Or select a holiday-themed DVD or book for a friend to enjoy by the fire. All kinds of seasonal mugs, books, and decorations tend to pop-up around the holidays. Check it out.

If you're a local business or organization, and I missed your product, let me know at appleviewcabin@yahoo.com. I'm always interested in finding unexpected treasures in Monterey.

—Ann Canning

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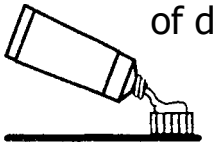

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November Wildlife

Pileated Woodpeckers, Coyotes, Porcupines, and More

Back at the end of October, Steve Snyder saw a bobcat (or wildcat) coming out of the brush along Fairview Road. He also reported about five fox sightings around town, including one on Hupi Road and another on Route 183. There were many porcupines, he says, mostly at night, except for one that was eating grass in the daytime in the middle of the Gould Farm soccer field. Back then at the end of October there was a fat woodchuck in the gravel pit, and many deer in the area.

Late in October, Ed Salsitz and Arrie Setiawati were driving into Canaan from Salisbury and saw a group of ten turkey vultures in a field busy with something. They stopped to look and the birds flew off, leaving a deer carcass that was well picked over. Ed and Arrie got some good photos of all of this.

Ed says that in early November there were "too many blue jays to count" all over town and that he saw one woodcock on Beartown Mountain Road, walking around

Setiawati/Salsitz

Vultures are excellent recyclers of valuable minerals and energy. Part of nature's large clean-up crew!

"very relaxed," also robins feasting on a shrub loaded with red berries.

In the middle of the month Suzanne Sawyer reports stopping for the family porcupine to cross the road, and then driving down Corashire Road where she had to stop for about a dozen wild turkeys in the road. She also reports that Shira saw a pileated woodpecker working over a dead tree at their place.

Steve Snyder tells of a pileated woodpecker around his place, too, where there are vines loaded with fox grapes. The big bird was gobbling these down, his red crest bright against the grey November landscape. Riding his bike in the morning, Steve saw a beautiful coyote at the end of Gould Road, before the Tryon farm. He says coyotes have often been out in the evenings in the gravel pit, maybe hunting for mice. Carol Ingher saw a coyote near Gould Farm, too, in a field along Curtis Road.

Steve has seen many red-tailed hawks and a nice buck on Wellman Road. Cora Baker saw a fine young buck, a yearling "spike," near Route 23 in Otis.

A wildlife spotter at Gould Farm told Steve about three small bear cubs crossing Wellman Road, November 5, about 8:00 a.m. Two were black and the third one was lighter. About this same time in the month Steve had to bring his car "to a stop on Swann Road to wait for a ruffed grouse to make his way."

Thank you, folks, for all your reports.

—Bonner McAllester 528-9385
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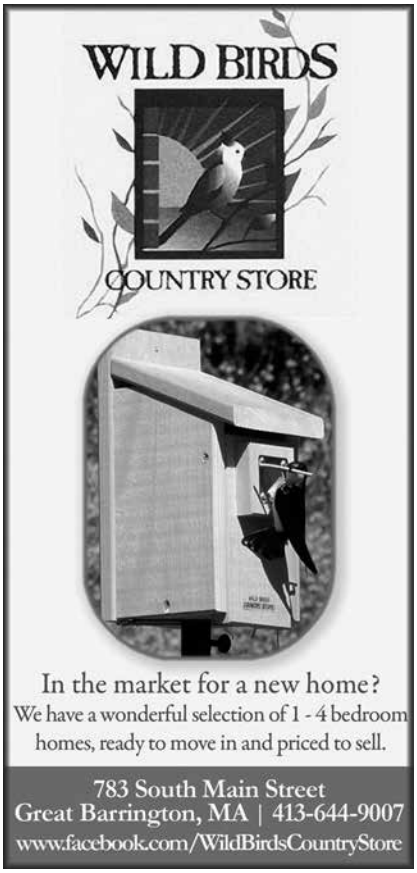
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Curating Your Life

We're often accused of being a wasteful throwaway society, continually disposing of ever-increasing amounts of stuff. That, of course, is true, but not so when it comes to personal belongings and memorabilia (note the extraordinary growth of storage facilities). In part that's because almost 70% of us live in houses where basements, attics, and garages serve as convenient resting spaces for collections of cartons and assorted boxes, which can remain undisturbed and largely forgotten for years.

But there comes a time when we finally decide to address the matter, sort through it all—a job, if you've already attempted it, you know to be both challenging and emotionally intense, one filled with surprises, but also on occasion with sadness. There is an uneasy finality to this process. It may come as part of an overall cleanup and de-cluttering, or a pending sale of your home. It may result from the need for additional room, or occur in our later years when thoughts turn to a consideration of the broader contours of our lives. Wading through personal belongings and papers will likely be a melancholy journey triggering memories of times gone by and provide numerous entry points into our past.

What is worth passing on to the next generation and what is not? What would they likely retain? What is it that you wish the children and grandchildren to know and remember about you? Your legacy is here in your hands to shape as you see fit. If you leave it to them you worry that much may simply be discarded, that a wholesale purge of your past may occur.

So after many excuses and endless delays the time finally arrives: you decide to take the plunge, to turn back the hands of time and recover those items that define the paths you've taken over the years. Digging in I discover my hospital birth registration, schedule of vaccinations and monthly weights, along with some primitive artwork. Also, an essay or two written in elementary school, my report cards, graduation diploma (from the sixth grade) and memory book (signed by fellow students long past recall). I see I didn't always get the highest grades, nor was my deportment consistently acceptable. Here is a class picture. (I should have written down all the names on the back.) There are some birthday cards (kept by my mother, I imagine). Sheet music when I played the piano and assorted commendations, together with projects completed in school (e.g. a candle, and a tie rack). In high school I was a "big man," captain of the tennis team. Clippings from the school newspaper recorded our triumphs and included pictures of me on the court. There is the "letter" I received for playing, along with my varsity sweater (which I wore ever so proudly).

Then there are the picture albums (the yellowing pages betraying their age). My father took these very seriously, filling one after another with family photos, carefully and completely captioning each picture (otherwise I'd have little idea as to the identity of many of those posing with me). What to do with all these weighty albums? People today don't compile such things any more, store most of their pictures on the computer or smart phone. But they just can't be tossed aside. If I did it would be tantamount to erasing much of my childhood. Very few people remain, after all, who can speak to those times.

My college years are also represented, by the freshman cap I was obliged to wear, grade transcripts, one or two term papers (not nearly as embarrassing as I imagined they'd be), ticket stubs to football games, and my first year college bill (about $2,000 if you can imagine that). Also, my varsity "letter" sweater (squash) and quite a few letters I wrote home from school, which my father saved ("Everybody was fine," "Courses going well," along with weather reports!). My laminated diploma lay in the box along with the graduation day program.

That was just one carton! There were others but there's no point in continuing to catalog their contents. Suffice it to say, a superficial survey revealed that they contained the predictable tokens of an active life and, yes, many photo albums devoted mostly to pictures taken on our various vacation trips.

Remember, just as I was rummaging through my extensive "holdings," my wife was similarly engaged, plunging into her

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So, to date, what has been accomplished? An inescapable task, long delayed, had at last gotten underway. Years traversed; memories rekindled. Life has left a well-marked trail for us to review and consider. But this critical undertaking is far from completed. Duplicates have been discarded, minor stuff tossed aside, especially that which has degraded and is no longer salvageable. But many of the hard decisions, having been deferred, still lie ahead. What, after all, is "worth" retaining? What do you wish others to see and value? Snap judgments are not in order here. It will require further examination, careful evaluation. I've not, however, scheduled Round Two.

—Richard Skolnik

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November Contributions

Your contributions to the *Monterey News* are much needed and very much appreciated. Thank you.

Will & Glynis Marsh
Nancy Fliesler & Henry Schwan
Richard & Louise Skolnik
Berkshire Fish Hatchery

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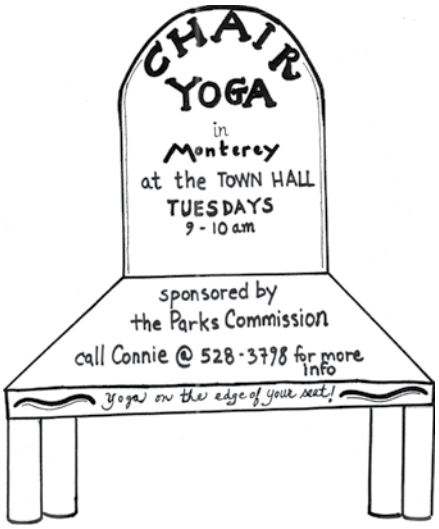

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Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

Select Board Corner

Other News: WiredWest

On Wednesday, October 29, Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI), WiredWest, and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments made a presentation in Monterey on "Solving the Last Mile" at their municipal leaders meeting. The Last Mile project is about the Commonwealth supporting forty-five towns to extend and accelerate broadband service to residents and businesses. MBI and WiredWest are working together to review and revise the current Fiber Network proposal. This proposal could provide each home with video, or the equivalent of cable, phone, and high-speed internet service, hopefully at a much lower cost than the current services available.

Each of the forty-five towns involved will need their select boards to enter a non-binding, formal affirmation to MBI that they support further development of the WiredWest Fiber Network proposal and state that they are prepared to seek formal approval of a general obligation bond at their annual town meeting in an amount sufficient to pay the town's share of the capital costs (estimated to be around $1.5 million for Monterey). This General Obligation (GO) bond requires a 2/3 approval at town meeting, is issued under MGL Chapter 44:8(8), is not subject to the normal tax levy limit (so an override may not be required), and the amount cannot exceed 5% of the equalized town valuation.

If the GO is approved at town meeting and the network achieves a strong cash flow at the upper range of the financial model, the town will make interest-only payments for the first few years and then WiredWest will fully reimburse the town for principal and interest. Operating surplus may allow the retirement of bonds before maturity. If the network performs at the lower range of the model, then WiredWest will only be able to partially reimburse the town and the town, will be liable for any unreimbursed principal and interest.

—Wayne Burkhart, Chair
Scott Jenssen and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town. Upcoming meetings and other events of interest are listed on the Events calendar. Agendas and minutes for meetings can be found under each department or Boards & Committees. Subscribing to News & Announcements can be done on the home page under "Subscribe to News." You can make many choices regarding what information you would like to recieve. You can alter your choices or cancel the service at any time.

Please note: We have new email addresses since we changed service providers. Please see "Town Contact Information" on this page. These new addresses are also available on the website.

Meetings and events:

Agricultural Commission: First Friday, December 5, at 10:30 a.m.
Board of Health: Mondays, December 1 and 15, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda
Conservation Commission: Tuesday, December 9, at 6 p.m.
Free blood pressure clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, December 11, from 2 to 3 p.m. (flu shots will still be available).
Park Commission: Wednesday, December 3, at 6 p.m.
Planning Board: Thursday, December 11, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.
Select Board meetings: New meeting format—Monday morning meetings: 8:30-9:30 administrative business; then agenda, general business, scheduled appointments. Mondays, December 1, 15, 22, and 29 at 8:30 a.m. and December 8 at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Office/Town Hall Closings:

- Administrative Assistant's office will close at 2:15 on Thursday, December 4, and open by 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 11.
- Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, December 25 for Christmas.

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend calling ahead to check before coming in.

Question of the month:

(This is intended to be an informal question to develop discussion and get a feel of where residents stand on issues. Responses help the Board as they make final decisions.)

December's Question of the Month: Should the town support the state (Mass Broadband Initiative, or MBI) and regional (WiredWest) proposal for high-speed fiber-optic internet access which would require the Town to participate in the funding? (See Other News, p.25, the Town Report p.16, and an article from WiredWest p. 18.)

To respond: Go to our homepage and click on the flashing banner; mail it to: P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245; or email it to admin@montereyma.gov.

Last month's question asked "Would you prefer to see the town use A) the same amount of salt on the roads as in previous years, B) less salt on the roads than in previous years, or C) more salt than previous years?"

Seventy people responded as of press time with 67% in favor of using the same amount of salt as in previous years, 10% in favor of using less salt than in previous years, and 23% in favor of using more salt than in previous years. Our new Director of Operations will be putting to use the knowledge gained at a recent salt usage meeting he attended in October.

Other News

Please see the statement from the Select Board on WiredWest's proposal on page 25.

—Wayne Burkhart, Chair
Scott Jenssen and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911
Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Dept.: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136
fire_service@montereyfire.org
Highway Dept.: 528-1734
mhwy@verizon.net
Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com
Police Dept. (non-emergency):
528-1443 x116,
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
Post Office: 528-4670
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
(for licenses and town records)

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meetings. See p. 26.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9–10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Through Saturday, January 31: *Circle Round (*Group Community Exhibit), Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, see p. 7.

Tuesday, December 2: Sewing circle, 10-11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Friday, December 5: *Circle Round* (Group Community Exhibit) opening reception, 6-7:30 p.m., Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 7.

Fridays, December 5, 12, & 19: Beginners Series Latin Dancing, 6:45-8 p.m., BerkshirePulse.org, Housatonic.

Saturday, December 6:

Knox Gallery open 9:30-4 p.m., *Circle Round* (Group Community Exhibit).

Monterey Makers Studio Tour, 10-4 p.m., at 18 different locations throughout Monterey. See p.6.

Thursday, December 11: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Visiting Nurse Assoc., 2–3 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room. Flu shots will also be available.

Saturday, December 13:

Annual Holiday Stroll, Main Street, Great Barrington, 4-9 p.m., sponsored by Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce.

Children's Book Group, 7 p.m., Monterey Library, will discuss *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer.

Tuesday, December 16: Sewing circle, 10-11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Wednesday, December 17: Community Potluck Supper, 6 p.m., Monterey Fellowship Hall. Barbara Swann will speak about post-Revolutionary Monterey. See p.7.

Saturday, December 20: Double Holiday Dance and Potluck, Lenox Contradance, Live music by Skippin' Cats, calling by Adina Gordon, 5-7 p.m. dance, 7-8 potluck, 8:30-11:30 dance. One dance $10 , both $15 (students $5/$10), bring a potluck dish to share. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. www.LenoxContraDance.org, Contact 413-528-4007.

Monday, December 22: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library, will discuss *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir* by Bill Bryson. See p.7.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

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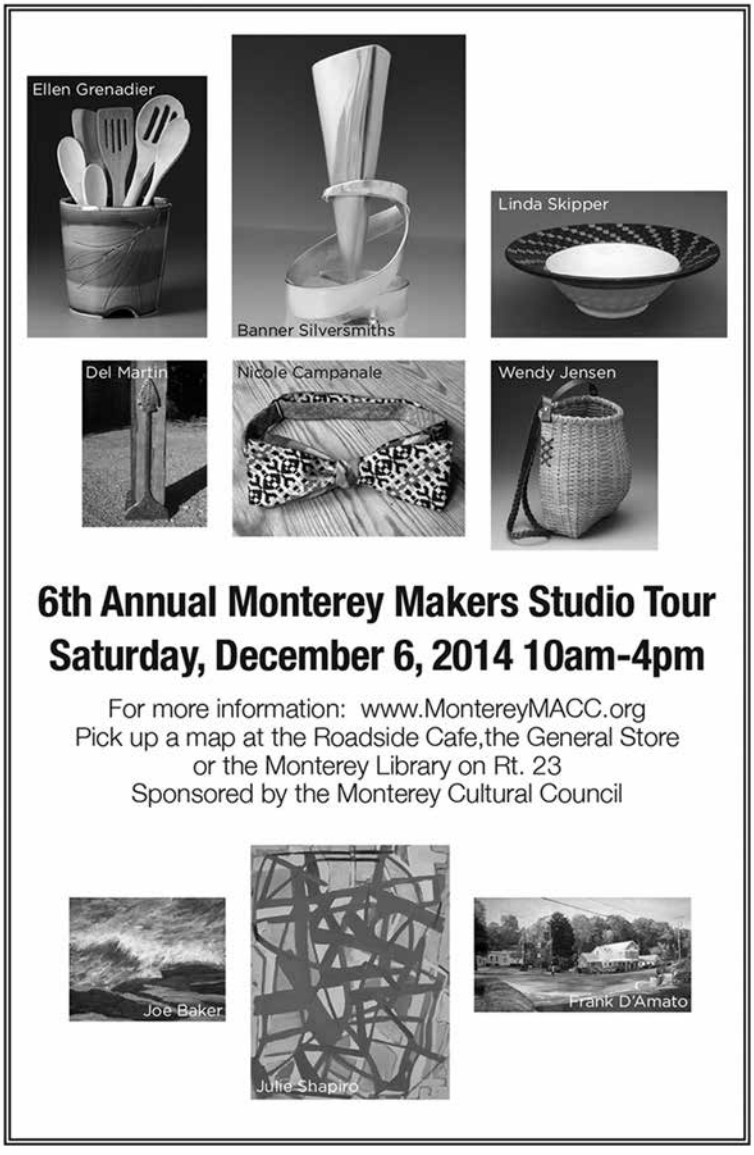

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Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 12; Tristan Goik, p. 5;
Bonner McAllester, pgs. 20,21.

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